



# The Cradle of Texas Crier

Cradle of Texas Chapter # 33  
Sons of the American Revolution



Volume 8, Number 8

November, 2005

Dr. Don Pugh, Editor

## Dr. Gregg Dimmick to Speak

### “Sea of Mud”

The regular meeting of the Cradle of Texas Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution will be held in the Rose Room of the Cattleman’s Hotel in Bay City on Saturday, November 12 at 11:30 a.m. Directions to the Hotel will be listed elsewhere in the newsletter.

The speaker for the meeting will be Dr. Gregg Dimmick of Wharton who will speak on his recent book, *The Sea of Mud*, an archeological investigation of the retreat of the Mexican Army after the battle at San Jacinto in 1836. This is an exhaustive account of the movement of the Mexican army during the period from April 21 to May 9, 1836 and the events leading up to and after the Battle of San Jacinto.

Dr. Dimmick is a pediatrician with the South Texas Medical Clinic in Wharton. He did his undergraduate work at Texas A & M University and received his M. D. degree in 1977 from the University of Nebraska Medical School. He has appeared in television documentaries about the Alamo on the History Channel and on the Discovery Channel.

The story about how a pediatrician who admits ignorance about Texas history and archeology became a recognized author about those areas is almost as good a tale as the book will hopefully be told in his talk.

### Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Cradle of Texas Chapter, Sons of American Revolution met at Windswept Restaurant in Oyster Creek, Texas on Saturday October 8, 2005. The meeting was called to order by President Tilman Daniel at 11.45 AM. The pledges were recited to the United States and Texas flags and the SAR.

In attendance were Frank Seidule, Alton Rogers, Ladene Rogers, Mary Nita Wing, Milton Wing. M.E.

Salisbury, Dorothy Salisbury, Arnold Seidule, Janice Seidule, Garvin Germany, George Easterling, Mike Rees, W. A. Bryant, Russell Dart, Elizabeth Melton, Roger Byler,, L.O. Stevens, T. M. Daniel, Clell Sechrest and Mary Sechrest.

President Daniel announced that the next meeting would be held in Bay City at the Cattleman’s Restaurant. He announced the November Regional Board of Managers meeting in Abilene. He noted that Compatriot Don Pugh was attending a national Trustee’s meeting in Louisville.

President Daniel asked if anyone wanted to report. All declined except for Mike Rees, who told the Chapter that in 1987 he had privately purchased fifty copies of the Constitution of the United States printed by the DAR suitably for framing to give the Chapter to have framed and presented to regional High Schools that participate in our essay and oratorical contests. Mike came across these in his closet recently, and reported there are still forty-four copies ready to award if and when the Chapter thinks their framing and posting is a worthwhile project.

President Daniel introduced Brazosport College Professor of History Sasha Tarrant. Professor Tarrant gave a lively power point presentation on the history of the “Pledge of Allegiance” (to which we shall refer to henceforth as “the Pledge”).

The first Pledge was the promotion of Francis Bellamy. Francis was a Baptist socialist preacher who became a publisher. Francis’ famous cousin Edward Bellamy wrote a famous socialist utopian novel titled *Looking Backward*. There were “Bellamy Associations” throughout the nation which sought to support a socialist movement in the US. Their publicist was a Mr. Upman, who was editor in chief of a popular magazine, the “Youth Companion”. He worked as an officer in the forerunner of the National Education Association and national Freemasonry.

This campaign resulted in the Pledge’s promulgation in 1892 the quartecentenary of Columbus’ discovery. A practical consequence of the establishment of the Pledge resulted was the industry of the

dissemination of flags to every school room by the turn of the Century. There is no doubt that the Pledge served a unifying symbol of the healing of the ideological breach in our Country after the civil war little more than a generation earlier, much as McDowell latently intended the SAR to function.

Professor Tarrant marked the process of two changes in wording. The original Pledge proposed by Bellamy simply said, "I pledge allegiance to my flag, and to the Republic, for which it stands, one Nation, with liberty, justice and equality for all".

Bellamy wanted the word "equality" with liberty and justice, but later backed off when met by the arguments that too much "equality" meant fearsome social change.

This first word change came in 1923. There was a backlash to the late nineteenth century swell of (non Anglo) immigration, the largest in the history of our Country. The Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Daughters of the American Revolution and others campaigned that immigrants needed to be clear that "my" flag was "the flag of the United States of America."

Nor were the words "under God" in the original Pledge. Ironically, Francis Bellamy, who died in 1951, thought that these words were inappropriate. Shortly after his death, the Knights of Columbus mounted a national campaign to counter "atheistic communism." The Knights argued that we needed a moral counterweight to the Soviet disestablishment not only of particular religions, but persecution of all religions other than the (non)theology of Marx. This cold war campaign resulted in President Dwight Eisenhower's 1954 executive order resulting in the Pledge "under God".

Professor Tarrant reviewed the "body language" prescribed for the Pledge. Remarkably, the "Roman salute" of the right arm extended at a 45% angle to the standing pledger was originally the preferred posture for the Pledge. This traditional posture looked too much like the fascist salute adopted by the German National Socialists and the Italian Brown Shirts to be comfortably used, so in the 1930's the right hand moved from overhead to cover the heart over the left breast.

Professor Tarrant also discussed the history of litigation over the Pledge. In 1941 before Pearl Harbor, a group of Jehova's Witnesses sued to be allowed to decline pledging the flag. Their argument was that the Pledge was like a prayer and the flag like an image which their faith prohibited. It is remarkable that in 1941 the United States Supreme Court upheld the authority of public schools to expel students who declined to recite the Pledge. Two (war) years later, the Court reversed itself with a decision which allowed students to refuse to recite the pledge, stating that public schools could not punish or expel students for their refusal to say the Pledge.

As Professor Tarrant showed, there is pending litigation to test the constitutionality of a California statute which requires students to pledge allegiance to the flag.

The argument made is that the statutory coercion to say the words "under God" is against the disestablishment clause of the First Amendment.

Professor Tarrant noted recent proposals to add with liberty and justice for all, the "born and unborn" have not succeeded (yet).

She discussed the historical context of the disestablishment clause of the First Amendment. The prohibition of the establishment of religions was born of sectarian competition and jealousy. There were established churches in colonial society which were the beneficiaries of public taxation. Thus, Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson promoted the "solution" of the disestablishment clause of the First Amendment. In fact, the First Amendment was Thomas Jefferson's promise to "radical extremists" (e.g. Baptists and Methodists in the nineteenth century) that they would not be persecuted by or suffer discrimination by the establishment churches. She noted that Benjamin Franklin, an admitted Pantheist, tried to write a prayer that would insult no one in its generality.

Professor Tarrant ably fielded a variety of questions and comments. The participation of the chapter showed a diversity of views that shared enthusiasm and interest in the pledge.

President Daniel adjourned our body by asking Chaplain Roger Byerly to lead the assembly in grateful benediction.

## SFA Statue Assembled

Photograph by Dennis McKelroy, used with permission



## President's Corner

### Veteran's Day

This day will, as always, be celebrated on November 11th. It was proclaimed in 1919 by President Woodrow Wilson as Armistice Day to commemorate the end of World War I. The final peace treaty, the infamous Treaty of Versailles, was signed in 1919 at the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month. Congress changed the name to Veteran's Day in 1954.

Veteran's Day is dedicated to honor all men and women, both living and deceased, who have served in the nations armed forces. It is a legal federal holiday in the United States. Let this be a time for each of us to stop and pause to give thanks for all those who have fought, for all those who have given their lives in order that we may live in a free world.

Remember

Written by Father Denis Edward O'Brien, USMC

It was the Veteran, not the reporter,  
who has given us the freedom of the press

It was the Veteran, not the poet,  
who has given us the freedom of speech

It was the Veteran, not the lawyer,  
who has given us the right to a fair trial

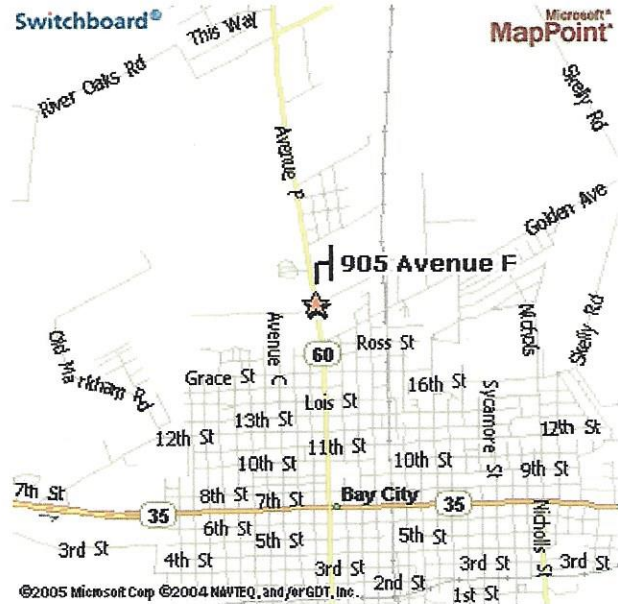
It was the Veteran, not the campus organizer,  
who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.

It is the Veteran, who salutes the flag  
who served under the flag,  
and whose coffin is draped by the flag  
who allows the protestor to burn the flag.

Some gave some--Some gave all!

## Directions to the Meeting Place

The Cattleman's Motel and Restaurant is on Highway 60 (Wharton Highway) in Bay City. The address is 905 Ave F. Turn North off of Highway 35 in downtown Bay City onto Highway 60 and proceed North. A map is shown next column:



## Update on Summer 2006 BOM in Lake Jackson

By now, all of our members are aware that our chapter will be the host of the TXSSAR Board of Managers August 4-6, 2006 at the Cherotel Hotel in Lake Jackson. Planning is now underway and we will be presenting to you information about the meeting and what you can do to help from time to time.

A Steering Committee has been appointed to plan for the meeting:

Dr. Tillman Daniels

Russell Dart, Chairman, Registration and Finance sub-committee

George Easterling, Chairman, Silent Auction sub-committee

Arnold Seidule, General Committee, Vice-Chairman

Dr. Don Pugh, General Committee, Chairman

Tom Green, Ex-Officio

Freda Daniels

Janice Seidule

Sue Dart

Earlene Pugh

Margo Green, Ex-Officio

This committee will meet after our regular meeting on Saturday, November 12 at the Cattleman's Motel and Restaurant has adjourned. The committee will be calling on all of our local membership to assist us in the effort. Mark August 4-6 on your calendar. One of the reasons that our chapter requested that we host this meeting is that it will be convenient for all of our local members to attend a meeting of the State Board of Managers to see how our State society is administered.

## Upcoming Dates of Interest

February 23-26 National Trustees Meeting, Louisville KY

March 17-19 State Meeting, Sugarland

Not only will our own Tom Green will be installed as the new State President the meeting will be in our own backyard. We should make every effort to support Tom in his presidency by attending this meeting.

July 8 -12 National Congress, Dallas, Texas

This will be a great opportunity. The President General for the National Society will be former Texas State President Judge Nathan White. This will be a great opportunity for many of us to attend the National Congress

## Announcements

### Welcome to New Members

We welcome to our membership our new compatriots. They will be inducted at one of our new meetings.

Alex Hoffpauir  
George Hall  
Tim Hall

### Changes of Address

George Easterling, 6 Rayburn Ridge, Angleton, TX 77515  
(979) 849-8628.

## Gleanings from the Last National Trustee's Meeting

One of the more important announcements from the National Trustee's meeting in Louisville in September was the announcement of the Ben Morris Memorial Reinstatement Campaign. This is a campaign to re-enlist all members who have been dropped for non-payment of dues. One of the greatest challenge facing our society is the holding of our members once they have been approved. In many instances it is because they have not been challenged and informed concerning what the local chapter, state society and National organization does to further the cause of the American Idea. This will be a one-time campaign to re-enlist all of our members that have been dropped for non-payment of dues. More information will follow.

There has been a new award approved – the SAR Distinguished Patriotic Leadership Award. This award can be presented to the business or group that has shown the highest level of patriotism and service to the community and nation.

There has also been a new award approved named for past President General Robert B. Vance, Sr. It is an award for the best Chapter and State website. Also the format for the History Teacher Award that is given by the Texas Society has been adopted for the National Society.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

October 24, 2005

General Fund Balance September 30, 2005	\$1559.10
Total Income	\$1574.10
Disbursements:	
Guest Lunch	\$15.72
Medals	\$267.65
Total Disbursements	\$283.37
General Fund Balance October 24, 2005	\$1275.73

### Cradle of Texas Officers for 2004

**President** -- -- Dr. Tillman Daniel Ph. (979) 245-6211  
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**Vice-President** -- -- Vacant

**Secretary** -- -- Dr. Michael Rees – Ph. (800) 244-5492  
Email Address [mrrees@lonestarlegal.org](mailto:mrrees@lonestarlegal.org)

**Treasurer** -- -- Russell Dart - Ph. (713) 436-1039  
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**Genealogist** -- -- Harry Fitzgibbon – Ph. 979 266-1019  
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**Chaplain** -- -- Roger L. Byler - Ph. (979) 647-4222  
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